

CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

1     1.     A digital image routing system, comprising:  
 2             means for receiving a digital image packet that includes a digital image and a  
 3     customer preference parameter; and  
 4             means for transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image  
 5     editing system selected according to the customer preference parameter.

1     2.     The digital image routing system of claim 1, further comprising:  
 2             means for enhancing the a digital image based on the customer preference  
 3     parameter; and  
 4             means for transmitting an enhanced digital image packet that includes a  
 5     enhanced digital image and an enhancement description packet that describes the  
 6     enhancements made for each of the digital images.

1     3.     The digital image routing system of claim 2, wherein the means for enhancing  
 2     the digital image, includes means for automatically enhancing the digital image based  
 3     on the customer preference parameter.

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1     4.     A digital image enhancement system, comprising:  
2             means for receiving a digital image packet that includes a digital image and a  
3     customer preference parameter;  
4             means for enhancing the digital image based on the customer preference  
5     parameter; and  
6             means for transmitting an enhanced digital image packet that includes an  
7     enhanced digital image and an enhancement description packet that describes the  
8     enhancements made for each of the digital images.

1             5.     The digital image enhancement system of claim 4, wherein the means  
2     for enhancing the digital image, includes means for automatically enhancing the  
3     digital image based on the customer preference parameter.

1     6.     The digital image enhancement system of claim 4, further comprising:  
2             means for transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image  
3     editing system selected according to the customer preference parameter.

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1 7. A digital image routing method, comprising the steps of:  
 2 receiving a digital image packet that includes a digital image and a customer  
 3 preference parameter; and  
 4 transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image editing system  
 5 selected according to the customer preference parameter.

1 8. The digital image routing method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:  
 2 enhancing the digital image based on the customer preference parameter; and  
 3 transmitting an enhanced digital image packet that includes an enhanced  
 4 digital image and an enhancement description packet that describes the enhancements  
 5 made for each of the digital images.

1 9. The digital image routing method of claim 7, wherein the step of enhancing  
 2 the a digital image, includes enhancing the digital image automatically based upon the  
 3 customer preference parameter.

1 10. The digital image routing method of claim 7, further comprising the step of  
 2 enhancing the digital image automatically using an automatic digital image  
 3 enhancement system.

1 11. The digital image routing method of claim 10, further including the steps of:  
 2 storing an enhancement performed on a previous digital image;  
 3 analyzing the enhancement performed on the previous digital image; and  
 4 establishing the enhancement parameter to be used by the automatic digital  
 5 image enhancement system to automatically enhance the digital image.

1 12. A digital image enhancement method, comprising the steps of:  
 2 receiving a digital image packet that includes a digital image and a customer  
 3 preference parameter;  
 4 enhancing the digital image based on the customer preference parameter; and  
 5 transmitting an enhanced digital image packet that includes an enhanced  
 6 digital image and an enhancement description packet that describes the enhancements  
 7 made for each of the digital images.

1 13. The digital image enhancement method of claim 12, wherein the step of  
 2 enhancing the digital image, includes enhancing the digital image automatically based  
 3 upon the customer preference parameter.

1 14. The digital image enhancement method of claim 12, further comprising the  
 2 step of enhancing the digital image automatically using an automatic digital image  
 3 enhancement system.

1 15. The digital image enhancement method of claim 14, further comprises the  
 2 steps of:  
 3 storing an enhancement performed on a previous digital image;  
 4 analyzing the enhancement performed on the previous digital image; and  
 5 establishing the enhancement parameter to be used by the automatic digital  
 6 image enhancement system to automatically enhance the digital image.

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- 1    16.    The digital image enhancement method of claim 12, further comprising the
- 2    steps of:
- 3                transmitting the digital image packet to a remote digital image editing
- 4                system selected according to the customer preference parameter.